

REMARKS

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 21-30 are pending. Without prejudice, claims 21-23 and 29 have been amended to more precisely claim applicants' invention. More specifically, claim 21 has been amended to eliminate unnecessary steps in the claimed method. Claims 22-23 have been amended to be consistent with the language used in claim 21. Claim 29 has been amended to correct a grammatical error. No new matter has been added.

II. STATUS OF SPECIFICATION

The Abstract has been amended to describe a method of making a composite intermediate layer as recited in elected claims 21-30.. The specification has also been amended to add the patent number corresponding to the referenced related application. No new matter has been added.

IV. OBJECTIONS TO SPECIFICATION

The Examiner has objected to the specification because the patent number for U.S. patent application Ser. No. 10/308,312 is not identified. As discussed above, applicants have amended the specification to reference U.S. Patent 6,849,319. Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

The Examiner has objected to the abstract of the disclosure because it does not describe a process as per the elected claims. As discussed above, applicants have amended the Abstract to describe a method of making a composite intermediate layer as recited in elected claims 21-30. Accordingly, this objection should be withdrawn.

V. DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

The Examiner has provisionally rejected claims 21-22, 24-25, and 29-30 under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 13-14, 15-16, and 18-19 of co-pending Application No. 10/962,084.

As per the MPEP, if a provisional double patenting rejection is the only rejection remaining, it should be withdrawn to permit the application to issue as a patent. MPEP §

804. Because there are no other present rejections and the objections to the specification have been addressed above, this provisional double patenting rejection will be the only rejection remaining. Accordingly, applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn. Any remaining double patenting issues will be addressed by applicants in Application No. 10/962,084.

IV. CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early notice thereof is earnestly solicited. The Office is invited to contact the undersigned counsel in order to further the prosecution of this application in any way.

Respectfully submitted,

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